

Senate Joint Resolution No. 9

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 89

Senate Joint Resolution No. 9—Relative to Medicare funding for military treatment facilities.

[Filed with Secretary of State July 22, 2005.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 9, Morrow. Retired military personnel: Medicare.

This measure would request that the Congress and the President of the United States support and enact legislation that would provide Medicare payments to military treatment facilities for retired military personnel and their dependents who meet Medicare age standards.

WHEREAS, The State of California has one of the largest retired military communities in the United States; and

WHEREAS, California includes among its population over 181,000 retired military personnel, in addition to their dependent families; and

WHEREAS, These military retirees receive over \$285,000,000 per month in retired military pay, which equates to over \$3,400,000,000 annually, much of which provides for the daily living expenses of the retired military community and thus helps support the economy of the State of California; and

WHEREAS, It is believed that the contributions of the retired military community to this state and nation are beyond most people's realization; and

WHEREAS, The importance of health care to our retired military community was recognized by Congress in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106-398) in a program titled "TRICARE For Life"; and

WHEREAS, TRICARE For Life substantially improves access to health care for most Medicare-eligible military retirees; and

WHEREAS, TRICARE For Life is a Medigap type wrap-around coverage; and

WHEREAS, When a Medicare-eligible military retiree uses a civilian facility, TRICARE For Life becomes the second payee to Medicare; and

WHEREAS, When the retiree uses a military treatment facility (MTF), Medicare pays nothing; and

WHEREAS, The addition of trained medical personnel and the authorization of Medicare funds for patients in an MTF could accommodate retired military personnel and their dependents and support active-duty military personnel and their dependents; and

WHEREAS, Providing Medicare funds to MTFs will provide jobs for qualified military and civilian medical personnel, which will assist the economy of this state; and

WHEREAS, Only the United States Congress can make good on the good faith promises recruiters made to those that served their country for at least 20 years on the understanding that, when they retired, they and their dependents would receive full health care for life; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully requests the President and Congress of the United States to enact legislation recognizing the medical needs of retired military personnel and their dependents who meet Medicare age standards and provide Medicare payments directly to the MTF when an individual is in the hospital, so that, with the hiring of qualified medical personnel and the creation of new jobs, Medicare eligible retirees can utilize MTFs under TRICARE for Life, augmented by Medicare payments, and be assured timely access to quality health care; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of California supports the enactment of legislation to address these matters; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate, each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, the Chairpersons of the Senate Armed Services Committee and the House Armed Services Committee, and the Chairperson of each committee of the House of Representatives and the Senate for consideration of this legislation.